

A
BRIEF
TO
THE ROYAL COMMISSION
ON
WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION ACT

Submitted by
THE OPTOMETRICAL ASSOCIATION OF ONTARIO

SEPTEMBER 1966



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Purpose of Submission:

to recommend that the words "Optometrical Aid" be included in Section 51 (i) and (ii) of the Workmen's Compensation Act, so that this aid, already provided, is established by definition.

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1. For many years, optometrists have provided vision services to workmen entitled to compensation under the Workmen's Compensation Act.
2. These services are presently made available and paid for by procedures provided for in Form 192 - Optometrical Services, a copy of which is attached. (See Appendix No. I)
3. Other optometrical procedures may be necessary for injured workmen and entitlement for such procedures is first established by the Workmen's Compensation Board and permission given or referral made for the particular procedure.
4. At present, The Workmen's Compensation Act does not specifically provide for Optometrical Aid by definition, although in fact, such aid is provided. It is recommended therefore, that Section 51 of the Statute be amended to include the words "optometrical aid".
5. The section would then read:

"51 - (i) - Every workman entitled to compensation under this Part, or who would have been so entitled had he been disabled for three days, is entitled to such medical, surgical, dental and optometrical aid, the aid of drugless practitioners registered under The Drugless Practitioners Act, the aid of chiropodists registered under The Chiropody Act, and hospital and skilled nursing services, and, in the discretion of the Board where a workman is rendered helpless through permanent total disability, such other treatment, services or attendance as may be necessary as a result of the injury, and is entitled to such artificial member or members and apparatus and dental appliances and apparatus as may be necessary as a result of the injury, and to have the same kept in repair or replaced when deemed necessary by the Board, R.S.O. 1960, c.437; 1962-63, c.145."

"51 - (ii) - In this Act, "medical aid" means the medical, surgical, dental, and optometrical aid, the aid of drugless practitioners registered under The Drugless Practitioners Act, the aid of chiropodists registered under The Chiropody Act, and hospital and skilled nursing services, and, where a workman is rendered helpless through permanent total disability, such other treatment, services or attendance and the artificial member or members and apparatus and repair above mentioned."

INFORMATION
RELATIVE TO
THE OPTOMETRICAL ASSOCIATION OF ONTARIO
AND TO
THE PRACTISE OF OPTOMETRY

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1. OBJECTS OF THE ASSOCIATION

The Optometrical Association of Ontario was chartered in 1909, its primary objects being to:

- (a) acquaint the public of the need for and to provide it with the highest standards of vision care,
- (b) maintain the highest possible standard of optometric education at graduate and post graduate levels,
- (c) elevate the profession of optometry to increasingly higher levels of scientific practice,
- (d) correct abuses by those commercial promoters whose motivation and interests are not concerned primarily with the well-being of the public,
- (e) encourage research and experiments in optometric sciences,
- (f) publish suitable professional journals.

2. MEMBERSHIP

Membership in the Optometrical Association of Ontario is voluntary and comprises some 400 members of the total optometric population of 553 in the province.

In addition to the statutory high standards of practice required, optometrists who are members of the Optometrical Association of Ontario agree to abide by its code of ethics and professional practice.

3. EDUCATION

To practise as an optometrist one must have graduated from an accredited College of Optometry, and be registered under the laws of the Province concerned. In Ontario the requirements for registration are Grade 13 graduation, followed by a four year course at the Ontario College of Optometry or other accredited College of Optometry. The curriculum for the Ontario College of Optometry is set forth in the Regulations under the Optometry Act 1961-62.

Appendix No. II is a copy of the applicable regulations.

4. TERMINOLOGY

Optometrical aid includes:

- (i) examination of the eyes to determine the presence or absence of pathology as manifested in the eye and its adnexa,
- (ii) examination to determine the refractive or muscular state of the eyes to determine the patient's ability to see clearly, comfortably and efficiently,
- (iii) study of the co-ordination of the eyes,
- (iv) prescription for correction of anomalies when present; verification of lens formulae and ophthalmic materials used; the use of orthoptics, visual training, spectacles, contact lenses or special devices, for the relief or correction of any visual or muscular error or defect of the eyes,
- (v) fitting and periodical care of prescribed materials.

APPENDIX I

FORM 192 - OPTOMETRICAL SERVICES

APPENDIX II

OPTOMETRICAL EDUCATION

APPENDIX I

FORM 192 - OPTOMETRICAL SERVICES

WORKMAN'S SURNAME (PLEASE PRINT)		GIVEN OR CHRISTIAN NAMES		CLAIM NO.	
WORKMAN'S ADDRESS IN FULL				AGE	
OPTICIAN'S NAME AND ADDRESS				FIRM NO.	
AGE DESCRIBE EXTENT OF DAMAGE		DATE OF VISIT		ACCIDENT DATE (NOT DATE SEEN)	
IS REPAIR POSSIBLE? YES ☐ NO ☐		IS PREVIOUS PRESCRIPTION AVAILABLE? YES ☐ NO ☐		IF NO, CAN LENS BE DUPLICATED? YES ☐ NO ☐	
SCHEDULE		SCHEDULE		NOTE IF THE SERVICE DOES NOT FALL WITHIN THESE CLASSIFICATIONS, PLEASE GIVE A DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE SERVICE PROVIDED, WITH THE LAB COST PLUS SUGGESTED FEE	
SINGLE VISION AND SERVICE		TINTED LENS - SINGLE VISION		1 LENS 2 LENS	
FUSED BIFOCAL		BIFOCAL		1.00 ☐ 2.00 ☐	
ULTEX BIFOCAL A		OTHER		1.25 ☐ 2.50 ☐	
ULTEX BIFOCAL B		PRISM - LESS THAN 3.0 PRISM DIOPETRES		1.50 ☐ 3.00 ☐	
FLAT TOP BIFOCAL		EXAMINATION AND REFRACTION (SEE ITEM 6 GENERAL PROVISIONS)		1.25 ☐ 2.50 ☐	
TRIFOCAL		FRAME - SEE ITEM 8 - GENERAL PROVISIONS		10.00 ☐	
HARDENED LENS - SINGLE VISION		ENTER FEE HERE - MAXIMUM \$12.00		\$	
BIFOCAL		FEES FOR SPECIAL FITTING - E.G. CATARACT LENSES, WILL BE ALLOWED AT PROPORTIONATE RATES		ENTER TOTAL FEE HERE	
TRIFOCAL		SIGNATURE		AMOUNT ALLOWED	

GENERAL PROVISIONS

This Schedule of Fees has been adopted by the Workmen's Compensation Board and approved by the Optometrical Association of Ontario and is effective for services rendered on and after January 1, 1965.

- The receipt of any form from the Workmen's Compensation Board, Ontario does not imply entitlement under the Act, but the submission of a completed form is necessary in order to adjudicate the claim.
- Entitlement under the Act must be established before payment can be made.
- Entitlement is limited to the extent of actual damage sustained by Industrial accident. Any replacement in excess of this damage will be at the Workman's own expense.
- If entitlement is established glasses are provided when they are necessary:
 - To improve the visual efficiency of the injured eye. (These glasses are kept in repair and replaced when necessary during the lifetime of the workman except for presbyopic addition)
 - To improve the visual efficiency of the uninjured eye when the sight in the injured eye has been lost. (One pair only is provided with no replacement or repair)
 - To repair or replace glasses destroyed or damaged by industrial accident.
- The fees in the Schedule cover provision, fitting, and normal servicing of glasses. No additional charge may be made to the workman except as noted in Paragraph 6, 7, and 8.

6. In repair or replacement of glasses destroyed or damaged by industrial accident a fee for refraction will only be paid when efforts to obtain the previous prescription have been unsuccessful and it is impossible to duplicate the lenses.

7. A hardened or tinted lens prescribed by a Practitioner or glasses for the correction of an eye injured in an industrial accident, or replacing a hardened or tinted lens broken in a compensable accident is part of the workman's entitlement under the Act.

Any other hardened or tinted lens or safety goggles are a part of the workman's entitlement under the Act but may be furnished at the workman's request if he is willing to assume the additional cost.

8. A serviceable mount is to be provided at a fee of \$4.00 plus the cost of the mount to the Practitioner, total charge not to exceed \$12.00. If the workman desires a higher priced mount for which the laboratory cost is more than \$8.00 the workman must assume the additional cost.

9. Recognizing that delay in dispensing may cause inconvenience and hardship to the workman, the Practitioner may protect himself when entitlement under the Act has not been determined by obtaining from the workman a deposit up to the Scheduled Fee. If entitlement is established, a refund of such deposit, not to exceed the Scheduled Fee, will be made to the workman by the Workman's Compensation Board.

APPENDIX II

OPTOMETRICAL EDUCATION

THE OPTOMETRY ACT, 1961-62

O.Reg. 166/63

REGULATION MADE UNDER THE OPTOMETRY ACT, 1961-62

GENERAL

1. Any person desiring to be admitted as a student at the College of Optometry shall register at the College of Optometry and produce evidence of good character and shall present Ontario Grade 13 certificates or equivalent certificates in,

- (a) English Literature and English Composition;
- (b) Mathematics consisting of Algebra, Geometry, Trigonometry; and
- (c) Science consisting of Chemistry and Physics,

and one of

- (d) Science consisting of Botany and Zoology;
- (e) French Authors and French Composition;
- (f) German Authors and German Composition;
- (g) Greek Authors and Greek Composition;
- (h) Latin Authors and Latin Composition;
- (i) Spanish Authors and Spanish Composition;

and

- (j) History.

2. The course of instruction in the College of Optometry shall consist of,

- (a) general science courses including Zoology, Optics, Human Anatomy, Physiology, Neurology, Pathology, and Psychology;
- (b) special science courses including Physiology and Neurology of the Eye, Physiological Optics, Embryology and Comparative Ophthalmology, Optometry;
- (c) applied science and clinical courses including,
 - (i) Mechanical and Applied Optics,
 - (ii) Personality and Abnormal Psychology,
 - (iii) Ocular Pathology, Clinical Optometry including Orthoptics, Visual Training, Subnormal Vision, Recognition of Ocular Pathology, Occupational Vision, Aniseikonia, Application of Contact Lenses, Optometrical Praxis and Dispensing;
- (d) related subjects including English, Scientific Method, Statistics, Optometrical Research, Industrial and School Surveys, Vision on the Highways, Vision applied to Aviation; and
- (e) such other subjects as the Board provides.

